

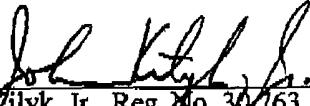
In re Appln. of Sogabe et al.
Application No. 09/940,941

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiners Slobodyansky and Achutamurthy for the courtesies extended to applicants' representatives at the personal interview on December 15, 2003. Applicants were represented by Mr. Sogabe (co-inventor) and Messrs. Nose, Shibano, and Murayama (assignee's representatives), as well as the undersigned attorney. At the interview, the Examiners and applicants' representatives discussed the Supplemental Response to Office Action and Rule 132 Declaration of Mr. Sogabe that accompanied the recently filed Request for Continued Examiner (RCE). The Examiners and applicants' representatives also discussed the claim amendments set forth herein (i.e., the cancellation of claims 24, 25, 27, and 28, and the amendment of claims 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 46, and 63 to correct claim dependencies) and the possibility that applicants would like to pursue claims directed to other embodiments of the invention that previously have not been pursued by applicants. New claims 71-75 represent those other embodiments (as supported by the specification at column 2, lines 10-47, column 3, line 64, through column 5, line 2, and the Examples). Applicants also have taken this opportunity to correct several typographical and grammatical errors in the claims. No new matter has been added by way of these claim amendments.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: December 22, 2003

Amendment or ROA - Final (Revised 7/29/03)